

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment as well as reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner indicates that the subject matters of claims 17 and 31 are allowable. Although Applicant believes that the claims presented in the last amendment are patentable over the applied prior art, the independent claims have been rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of these claims. Apparatus claim 16 now incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 17. Method claim 1 now incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 2 which recites the very same language recited in claim 17. Claim 24 now incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 31 plus the intervening subject matter of claim 30 from which claim 31 depends. Claim 33 now incorporates the features of claims 36 and 37 which recite the same features as claim 30 and allowable claim 31, respectively. Claim 9 incorporates the allowable subject matter of claims 30 and 31 recast in method claim format.

The application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



John R. Lastova
Reg. No. 33,149

JRL:sd
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100